(b) whether Government have taken note of this report;

(c) if so, the action taken on the same;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to reduce the cost of Anti-Haemophilic factor, which costs Rs. 5,000 per dose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) WHO and other technical agencies have recognised and articulated the high risk of transfusion transmissible infections in patients undergoing multiple transfusions, like haemophiliacs. Government has provided extensive testing facilities for transfusion transmissible infections in Blood Banks and is also providing Anti-Haemophilic factors.

(d) to (f) government is funding the entire requirement of Anti-Haemophilic Factor (AHF) for Haemophilia patients in the country registered with the Haemophilia Federation of India.

Upgradation of Vaccine Institute, Belgaum

1202. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how may Vaccine Institutes producing Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) are functining in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Neural Tissue anti Rabies Vaccine (NTARV) produced in the Vaccing Institute, Belgaum has been banned by W.H.O. and the Supereme Court; and

(c) if so, whether Government are planning to upgrade the Vaccine Institute, Belgaum, Karnataka, for the production of safe and effective vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are mainly the following Institutes producing Tissue Culture Anti-rabies Vaccine (TCARV) in the country;

1. Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor and Human Biological Institute, Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu-public sector.
2. Chiron Behring Vaccine Ltd., Ankaleshwar, Gujarat-in private sector.

(b) and (c) WHO does not ban any vaccine and they suggest that safer tissue culture vaccines are preferred as they are available. Supreme Couft directed the Government to look into the issues relating to the production of neurogenic sheep Anti-Rabies Vaccine.

Vaccine Institute, Belgaum is under State Government, who will decide on its upgradation.

New Health Policy

1203. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAIMLY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced New Health Policy, 2002, recently;

(b) if so, the major highlights of the said policy and its main thrust;

(c) wether it is a fact that the policy has been criticised in some quarters as just another steps towards privatization without ensuring delivery and corresponding gains; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objective of the new National Health Policy-2002 is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country and also ensure a more equitable access to health services across the social and geographical expanse of the country. The new Health Policy covers various aspects of health sector and its major highlights include financial resources, equity, delivery of national public health programmes, public health infrastructure, education of health care professionals, health research enforcement of quality standards for food and drugs, role of private sector local self-government Institutions, civil society and NGOs, etc.